



# News Release

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## **Drayton Harbor red dye test next week as part of water quality study**

**OLYMPIA** — Red dye will be added to the water at the mouth of Dakota Creek near Blaine next week and monitored as it moves throughout Drayton Harbor. The Department of Health along with community and government partners are doing the study to learn more about how water moves in the harbor and the potential impact from the creek on the commercial shellfish harvesting area.

Dye will be added to Dakota Creek at about midday on Tuesday, Dec. 10. It will likely be visible in the water near the mouth of the creek for about an hour. Electronic sensors on a boat will track the movement of the dye, even after it's no longer visible. The dye isn't harmful to people, marine life, or the environment.

Drayton Harbor is home to commercial and tribal shellfish harvesting. Pollution that runs into the bay from Dakota Creek and other sources can make the shellfish unsafe to eat. Drayton Harbor is closed to shellfish harvesting seasonally from November to January due to high levels of bacterial pollution detected during tests.

Partners from businesses in the community and government agencies have been working together as part of the Whatcom Clean Water project. The partnership is working to limit the amount of pollution that enters the bay.

The Department of Health goal is to ensure that shellfish harvested in the waters of our state are safe to eat.

The [Department of Health website](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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